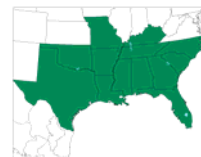


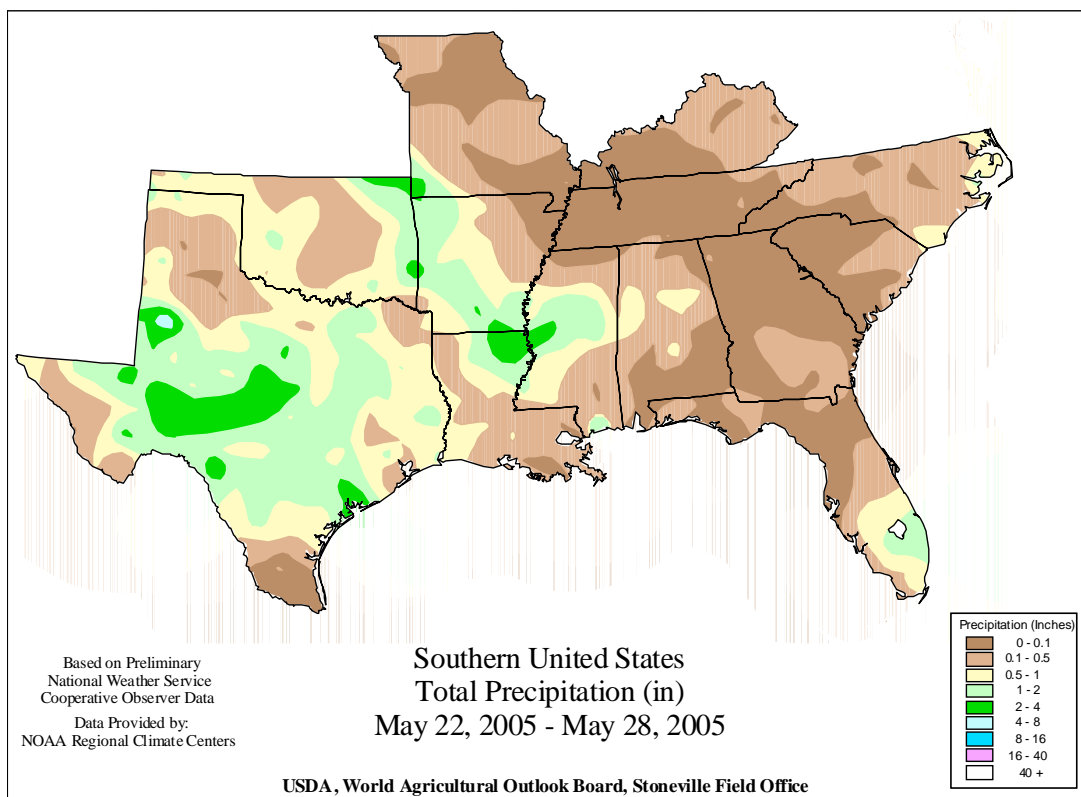


**Office of the Chief Economist
World Agricultural Outlook Board
Stoneville Field Office**



WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL WEATHER REPORT

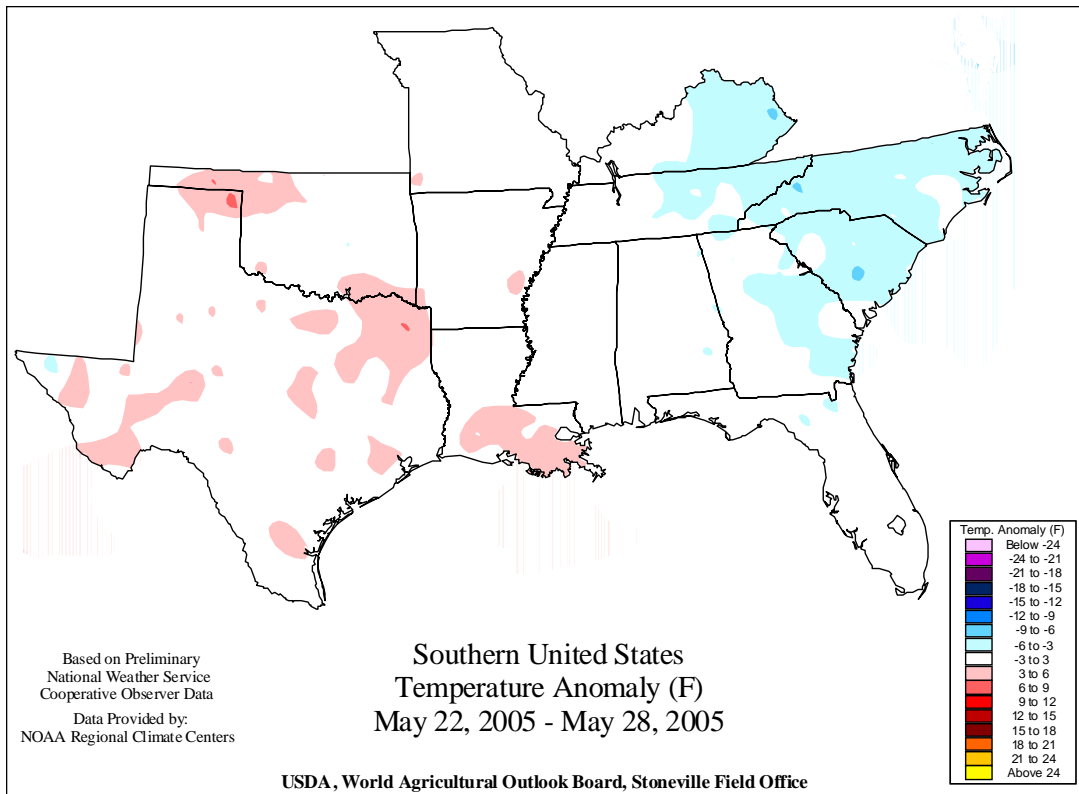
May 22 to 28, 2005



Weather Highlights

A reversal in the precipitation pattern occurred this week, with the western half of the southern U.S. receiving rain, while the eastern half was mostly dry. In the western portion of the region, a hot weather pattern early in the week was followed by cooler weather and widespread showers. Oklahoma and Texas experienced several days of rain. Greatest amounts of rain (1 to 2 inches or more) fell in central Texas, while the High Plains and Lower Valley in Texas and central Oklahoma received little, if any, rain. By mid- to late-week, rain developed along a frontal boundary in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The heaviest rainfall (1 to 2 inches or more) occurred in western Arkansas, northeast Louisiana, and central Mississippi. Other locations in those states reported lesser amounts of rain. Elsewhere, rain (.50 to 1 inches) occurred along the eastern shore of North Carolina, associated with a strong storm that went up the Mid-Atlantic coast. The Everglades region of Florida to the Keys received between .50 to 2 inches of rain.

Weekly temperatures averaged near to above normal in scattered areas in Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. Whereas, the eastern portion of the region averaged 3 to 6 degrees F below normal, as it remained in the cold sector of a strong storm that moved up the East coast.



In the Mississippi Delta, above-normal temperatures prevailed during the first half of the week, with many locations reaching or exceeding 90 degrees F for several days. On May 25, Stoneville reported a daily record maximum temperature of 96 degrees F, breaking the old record of 95 degrees F set in 1996. At mid-week, a front caused temperatures to fall sharply, falling as much as 14 degrees F within 24 hours from Wednesday to Thursday (May 25 and 26). Showers accompanied the frontal passage providing additional relief. Stoneville received .33 inches of rain. The Central and southern Delta received the most rainfall during the week, anywhere between .25 and 2 inches.

(For additional information, contact Nancy Lopez at 662-686-3395)

Agricultural Summary

United States Crop Progress Report*

Week Ending

		May 29, 2005	May 22, 2005	May 29, 2004	2000-2004 Average
		Percent			
Cotton	Planted	83	68	84	81
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	60	64	---	---
Corn	Emerged	85	66	89	80
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	62	63	68	---
Rice	Planted	97	94	97	97
	Emerged	86	78	90	87
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	55	58	66	---
Soybeans	Planted	81	65	76	71
	Emerged	50	27	53	45

*Source: USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

"---" = Not Reported

Cotton:

Planting advanced to 83 percent complete, 1 point behind last year and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. Sixty percent of the crop was estimated to be in good to excellent condition, down 4 points from last week. Planting was nearly complete, but trailed behind the 5-year average in Georgia and Oklahoma. Planting was significantly behind in Oklahoma, where 52 percent of the crop had been planted, 28 points behind the 5-year average. All southern states had cotton emerged, led by Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi with 95, 93, and 92 percent emerged, respectively.

Corn:

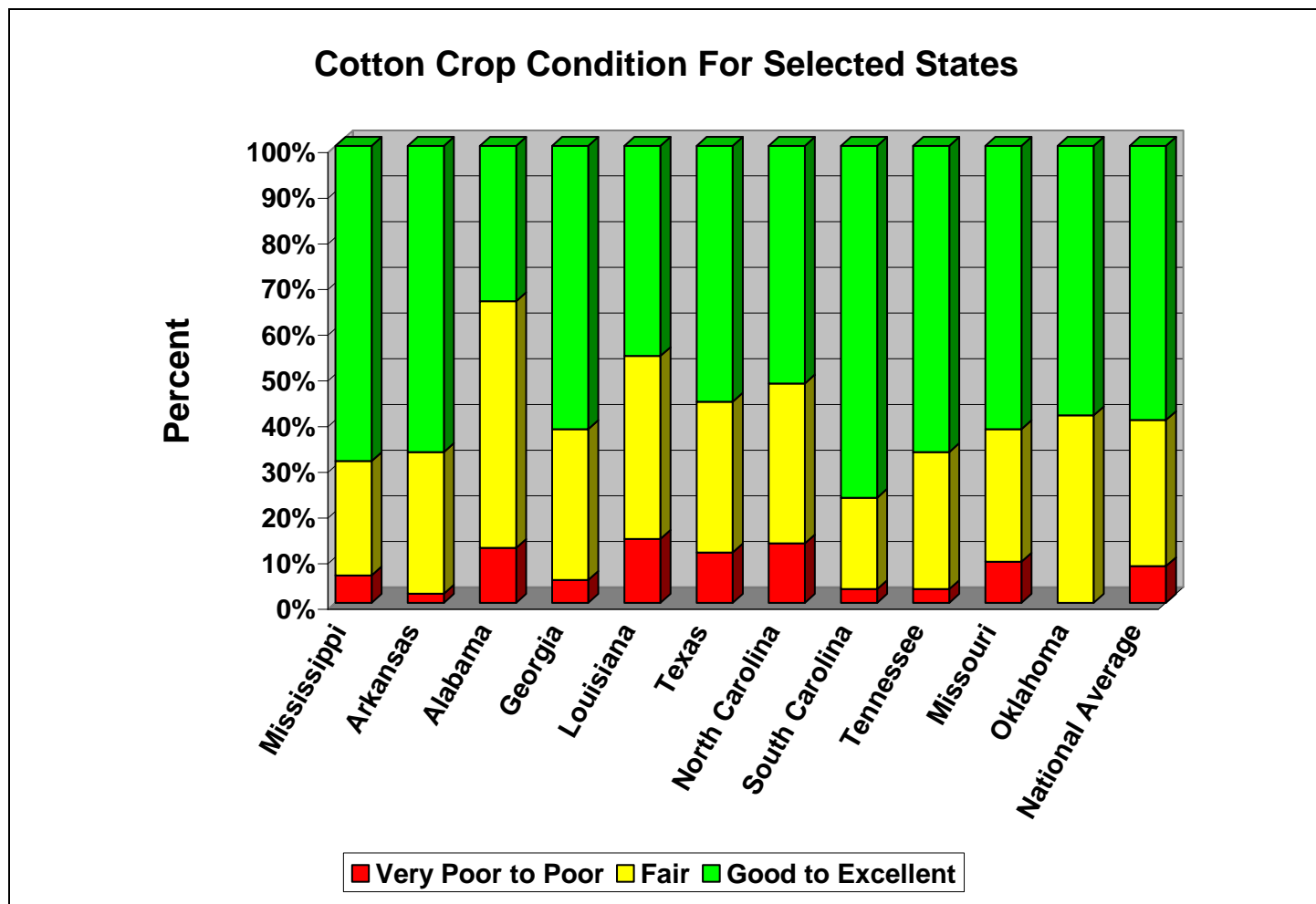
Emergence progressed 19 points to 85 percent emerged nationally, and 62 percent of the crop was considered to be good to excellent, down 1 point from last week. All southern states reported at least 90 percent of their crop had emerged and all were within 5 points of their 5-year average. Several southern states reported that their corn was silking, led by Texas (22 percent silked) and Louisiana (12 percent silked).

Rice:

Planting was 97 percent complete, equal to last year and the 5-year average. Eighty-six percent of the crop had emerged, 4 points behind last year and 1 point behind the 5-year average. Nationally, 55 percent of the crop was rated good to excellent, down 3 points from last week. Emergence in all southern states neared completion and equaled or was ahead of the 5-year average. Emergence advanced to 97 percent in Louisiana, 98 percent in Mississippi, and 100 percent in Texas.

Soybeans:

Planting progressed 16 points to 81 percent complete, ahead of last year by 5 points and the 5-year average by 10 points. Emergence advanced to 50 percent complete, 3 points behind last year but 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. Mississippi had 93 percent of their crop emerged, followed by Arkansas with 68 percent, and Louisiana with 62 percent. Oklahoma, at 32 percent emerged, lagged its 5-year emergence average by 19 points. A few states reported soybeans blooming.



Cotton Conditions by State:

Crop ratings in Alabama and Louisiana were the lowest of all southern states, with only 34 and 46 percent, respectively, rated good to excellent. Texas reduced their crop condition rating by 15 points to 56 percent good to excellent. Tennessee and Arkansas, both with 67 percent of their crop rated good to excellent, reduced their crop ratings 12 points from the previous week. Louisiana advanced their crop rating the most with a 9 point improvement from the previous week.

(For Additional Information, contact Bart Freeland at 662-686-3280)